890

DEF 12 - 5 ISR

45

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

82

Action

NEA

Info

G
SAH
H
AF
EUR
P
USIA
NSC
INR
CIA
NSA
DOD
IGA
AID
E
MC
TRSY

RSR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNNNVV FHE801VV HA934
RR RUEHC RUQMVL
DE RUFNCR 1068 1401845
ZNY CCCCC
R 201648Z
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8035
INFO RUQMVL/AMEMBASSY TELAVIV 96
ZEN/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY AMMAN UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY CAIRO UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY JIDDA UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY RABAT UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY TAIZ UNN
ZEN/AMEMBASSY TUNIS UNN
STATE GRNC
BT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MAY 20

LEMONDE DATED MAY 21 CARRIES SUBSTANCE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT RE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT SALE TO ISRAEL. ARTICLE ALSO INCLUDES PHILIPPE BEN REPORT FROM NY THAT TRANSACTION IN OLVES 48 SKYHAWKS (WHOSE RANGE AND LOAD CAPACITIES THEN CITED) SOLD FOR PRICE WHICH "UNBEATABLE IN WEST". BEN LINKS AIRCRAFT SALE TO ISRAEL WITH US-JORDANIAN STARFIGHTER TRANSACTION: NOTES ISRAELIS ALSO "CONTINUING RECEIVE LARGE NUMBER" MIRAGE III AIRCRAFT FROM FRANCE.

MORNING PRESS EXPECTED PROVIDE FURTHER COVERAGE MAY 21.

BOHLEN
BT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 2/1/80
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PARIS-5035
5-20-66

D3778
1966 MAY 20 PM 3 50

FRANCE PROPOSES TO SELL TO JORDAN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES

Maariv, April 22, 1966
by Uri Dan, Paris Corres.

Whoever thought that the French shrugged off the failure in their negotiations regarding the sale of MIRAGE fighters to Jordan, is in error. Even before the news was announced that the Americans have promised to supply Starfighters to the Jordanians, the French Government has already taken steps in various spheres, internal and external, in order to continue their effort in penetrating the Arab markets.

A French personage, who has for many years been engaged in such deals, told your correspondent this week that, when the French Foreign Ministry learned that the chances of selling "Mirages" to Jordan are slimming, contrary to expectations, it turned to the French Defense Ministry with the request to check and see what could be done in order to save the deal. Complaints were heard that some of the officials who handled the negotiations did not give the matter their wholehearted support. Things got so far that Defense Minister Pierre Mesmer saw fit to ring up some of his senior officials and ask them whether they did not put on purpose obstacles in the way of executing the deal.

Now that it has become clear to the French that they cannot compete with the Americans by "granting" airplanes at half the price, and after their failures in the arms deals with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and other countries, a reorganization of all Government offices dealing with negotiations about the sale of aircraft to foreign countries was decided upon. Officials were removed, and still are being removed, from their posts and replaced by others, in an effort to give new momentum to the sale of French aircraft to whoever wanted them.

French Missiles for American Aircraft.

The same French personage further revealed that the French Authorities are not satisfied with that. Now that the supply of American planes to Jordan has been agreed upon, the French Foreign Ministry is showing signs of renewed initiative and is encouraging French industrialists, directly and indirectly, to sell air-to-air missiles to Jordan of the very same type that Israel announced this week it was equipping its air force. The French are thus trying to sell the Jordanians air-to-air missiles of the Matra type for the American aircraft. The motivation of the French is mainly political, but one cannot ignore the military implication of the French willingness to sell to the Jordanians these excellent missiles. In this connection a French representative will soon go to Amman and will try to persuade the Jordanians to acquire these missiles.